

PM: Youths must nurture qualities

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Prime Minister today outlined an agenda for the nation's youth centred around the need to nurture a positive attitude and qualities at an early age.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said they should also clearly define their ambition in life and be prepared to accept risks in ventures offering much benefit to the nation.

Opening an exhibition on *Youth in Nation Building* at Lot 10 here, Dr Mahathir said the first step towards preparing the nation towards meeting the targets set for *Vision 2020* was to change the attitude of youths to suit the changing times.

"They can no longer depend on the Government to get something. Youths should be self-reliant in everything they do. They should have a clear target in life, be ambitious, be self-

disciplined and willing to take risks," he told the audience at the exhibition organised by the MCA Youth wing.

They should remove all the negative attitudes, such as the fear of taking risks, intolerance, apathy towards self-improvement, unco-operativeness and self-centredness.

Just as important, the Prime Minister said, youths should also equip themselves with the right knowledge. They should keep abreast of the developments in fields such as manufacturing, research and development, computers, communications, transportation, science and technology and architecture.

They should acquire the knowledge in these fields because without knowledge, they would not be able to move anywhere or help the nation to succeed.

Youths should also increase their skills in the relevant fields. The skills can be acquired through on-the-job training, study tours, participation in workshops and seminars and apprenticeships.

He also warned youths against the unhealthy trend of adopting negative western values which would hamper efforts to realise the objective of making Malaysia a developed nation.

He said as a developing country, Malaysia had and could learn tremendously from positive western values but added that it was sad that many youths tended to accept anything from the West, irrespective of whether those values had positive or negative effects.

"Activities such as rock culture, keeping long hair, the wearing of earrings by males, dadah addiction and the practice of immoral activities are on the rise

among our youths," he said.

Dr Mahathir said youths who indulged in such activities would not help in efforts to produce a new successful generation that would be the potential leaders of the country.

He said youths should reject these unhealthy activities.

Dr Mahathir said the Government encouraged youths to participate actively in youth organisations, especially multi-racial ones.

He said interaction among youths of the different communities was very important in creating a Malaysian race that was united.

"Towards this end it is better for us to reduce associations which have communal identities or origins.

"The isolation of youths through communal organisations will not help to create unity," he said.